

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Alan Lee, and I am resident of New Haven, CT. My parents are immigrants from China and I grew up in a one bedroom apartment with a family of six and we had Medicaid as children.

So, I want you to take 10 seconds to think back to a time when one of your children got hurt or sick. I'll keep time. Maybe they cried and were quickly soothed when you kissed their wound. Or maybe they had a fever, and cried all night, keeping you up, as you tried to get them back to sleep and give them medicine. Think about how much you just wanted them to get better.

I think that's the way we all feel when it comes to children. We just desperately, desperately want them to get better. And that's what I think the core of S.B. 284 is, a recognition of, empathy and compassion for the love that all parents have for their children. Allowing this bill will make it much easier for parents to help their children access medical care and keep them healthy.

My siblings and I grew up on Medicaid, and I am so thankful for that. We used it when my brother to the hospital after a bowl of instant noodles filled with boiling water fell over his thigh, causing his skin to slough off as he screamed in agony. When my sister fell and broke her arm, the bones lacerating blood vessels, necessitating surgery. When my hands, feet, and mouth became covered in painful mysterious sores. Medicaid helped my siblings and I get through our childhoods healthy and well. Having medical insurance allowed my parents to seek medical attention for us when we needed it and kept it from turning into crushing financial debt. Today, my brother runs medical tests in the hospital, my sister attends college and just returned home from a study abroad semester in Mexico, and I am finishing my final year of medical school at Yale School of Medicine.

To be sure, this bill is asking for a special provision to be made for children who are undocumented immigrants. But I ask that in this case, that you think back to that time your own child was sick or hurt, your tears, your worries. I ask that you recognize that the love you have for your child is the same that any immigrant parent has for their children. That they just want to see their children grow up healthy and lead happy and productive lives.

I have always loved this country because I believe that we, Americans can always find it our hearts to do the right thing. That is why I stand in support of S.B. 284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS.

Thank you for your time,  
Alan Lee